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Written Testimony in FAVOR of Senate Bill – SB 353 – Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force.

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Honorable Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Chuck Thompson and a long-time resident of District 31 in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I grew up in Riviera Beach on Rock Creek – a tributary off the Patapsco River. During the 1960s and early 1970s I spent many mornings with a net wading along the shoreline of Rock Creek catching hard and soft crabs. They were everywhere.

But then, within a decade, the water quality took a turn for the worse. At times Rock Creek would smell like rotten eggs. This was not the Rock Creek that I once enjoyed.

I don't know what environmental studies were performed for all the development that took place, but clearly the unintended consequences were not understood and have been devastating to Rock Creek.

The reason for my testimony is I don't want history to repeat itself.

I just retired from a government contractor after 42 years as a budget analyst. During those years I worked on many design and development contracts for next generation systems. Based on my experience, good project management principles are essential for a successful outcome.

This Bill addresses some of these principles. First, the scope – review of CAD alternatives. Never accept a point solution.

Second, since CAD is new for a residential area, a benefits and risks analysis is to be performed. This is an extremely important step. Before any ground is

broken, all stakeholders need to be extremely confident that all risks are identified, and mitigation plans are in place.

Third, the Bill includes a cadre of skeptical stakeholders to ensure robust deliberations. Risks, mitigation costs, impacts, etc., need to be vetted and well understood.

Fourth, some people don't like change. This broad-based membership can provide input to the chair of the Task Force on a proper change management communication plan.

Lastly, affected residents have someone to represent them. Namely a member each from the House and Senate. These members are closest to the people and have the power to push back against the bureaucracy.

I strongly support SB 353 and its independent investigatory role, independent scientific expertise, and meaningful citizen inclusion and legislator participation. It is of utmost importance that a great environmental injustice is not committed in the name of cost and convenience to the state.

I request a FAVORABLE report for SB 353.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Chuck Thompson